

APPENDIX F

Other Features In and around Acadia National Park

Carriage Road Bridges

Lighthouses

Mount Desert Island Towns

Museums in the Mount Desert Island Area

Carriage Road Bridges

Sixteen carriage road bridges occur at various points where there is either a ravine or motor route to be crossed. Each bridge is a beautifully executed work, entirely constructed from hand-hewn local granite. They each have artfully conceived and individual design features that blend harmoniously with their surroundings and that, in many cases, take advantage of natural waterfalls, site contours and great heights to enhance the drama of the landscape. Frequently small viewer's platforms were designed into the bridges so that both the view and the handiwork of the bridge may be admired. Unless otherwise noted, most bridges have a substructure of stone and mortar, are faced with quarry-faced random laid granite ashlar, and a two lane gravel deck.

DEFINITIONS

Ashlar: rectangular blocks (in this case—granite) with no set dimensions

Voussoirs: stones creating the decorative arch of the bridge

Coping Stones: creating the top rail

Abutments: side walls or pillars of bridge built into the landscape

Capstone: top rock on abutments of the bridge deck

Bridges in the Jordan Pond Area

Jordan Pond Bridge: Completed in 1920, this compact 40 foot length bridge has a 20 foot single segment arch span. The bridge marks the meshing of Jordan Pond and Jordan Stream's waters. Its arched gravel deck is flared at either end. Its surface blocks are laid both random and polygonal between the radiating voussoirs of the arch and the orderly coping stones of the gently arched rail. The abutments are square, solid masses surfaced in random ashlar with a flattened pyramidal capstone.

West Branch Bridge: The 170-foot structure has a flared approach as it curves sharply over the ravine formed by Jordan Stream. It has a small 6 foot stone arch span. The stone and mortar substructure is very simply clad in quarry-faced random laid ashlar and lacks even copings on its side railings. It was built in 1931.

Cobblestone Bridge: This bridge spanning Jordan Stream was the first bridge built on the carriage road system in 1917. William Welles Bosworth, an architect who had previously been employed by Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr. designed this bridge. However, it was carriage road engineer, Charles Simpson—not Bosworth—who suggested the use of rounded boulders for the facing. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. agreed that the rounded boulders would lend a more natural appearance to the bridge than cut stone work. The cobblestone bridge is unique. No other bridge on the carriage road system has boulder facing.

Stanley Brook Bridge: The triple-arched Stanley Brook Bridge was built in 1933. The main arch spans the Stanley Brook road which connects Seal Harbor Beach to Jordan Pond. The two smaller arches cross Stanley Brook on one side and the Seaside Path on the other. The long deck carries a carriage road.

Jordan Pond Road Bridge: One of the last bridges built in 1932, this bridge is not easily noticed even when traveling over it. It carries an automobile road from Seal Harbor to Jordan Pond across its deck, a carriage road running beneath it.

Bridges in the Penobscot Mountain and Sargent Mountain Area

Deer Brook Bridge: Completed in 1925, this 140 foot long bridge soars high above its namesake near Jordan Cliffs. The two-rounded arches are tall, narrow 8-foot spans, separated by a delicate pier and outlined by slender radiating voussoirs. The entire stone and mortar substructure is clad in quarry-faced random laid ashlar. Set into the spandrel of the arches is a plain, circular medallion into which has been carved the year “1925.”

Chasm Brook Bridge: The Chasm Brook Bridge, completed in 1927, is a rustic and small-scaled bridge with a 20 foot span over Chasm Brook. It is faced with random laid ashlar as are the long, slender, radiating voussoirs, the keystone, and the railing copings. The two-lane, gravel-surfaced deck is handsomely flared and terminates at pairs of rounded abutments which form pedestals for their gently peaked caps.

Bridges in the Parkman Mountain/Upper Hadlock Pond Area

Hemlock Bridge: Built in 1925, this massive Gothic-arched structure crosses Maple Spring Brook. Its 185 foot wall curves back sharply and flares at either end. The Gothic arch span is 30 feet across and is sharply outlined in radiating voussoirs.

Waterfall Bridge: Another 1925 bridge, the Waterfall Bridge spans Hadlock Brook. It is 125 feet in length and flares gently at the ends. The 20 foot span of its rounded arch is outlined by a firm row of radiating voussoirs. Random laid ashlar cover the substructure and bold blocks of the same material form the railing copings. A pair of semi-circular viewing platforms jut out on either side to take advantage of the view.

Hadlock Bridge: The Hadlock Brook Bridge, completed in 1926, is a small-scaled 40 foot bridge with a 20 foot span segmental arch. The rail of the bridge follows the line of the arch and flares out gently at either end. There are strong abutments with chinked rounded capstones. The stone and masonry substructure is clad in very rough, quarry-faced ashlar, laid random. The radiating voussoirs and rail copings are similar in texture.

Bridges around Eagle Lake/Witch Hole Pond Area

Eagle Lake Bridge: The carriage road passes underneath the Gothic-arched Eagle Lake Bridge which carries State Route 233 above. It was built in 1927 and is 118 feet in length. The refined Gothic arch spans 30 feet. The arch is outlined in radiating voussoirs of the random-laid ashlar. This bridge was the object of a 1974 widening project that expanded the upper deck to accommodate State Route 233 traffic. The project received engineering awards for the division, the separation move made on a system of ball bearings, and the excellent re-seaming with the newly added masonry.

Duck Brook Bridge: The Duck Brook Bridge is a spectacular, three-arch structure over Duck Brook. Completed in 1929, there is a central 30-foot span flanked by smaller 20 foot spans, each of which has rough-dressed uneven radiating voussoirs with prominent keystones. The gravel-surfaced deck is 200 feet in length and flares at either end. The railing has dressed ashlar copings and there are pairs of rectangular openings piercing the railing above the lesser arches and three pairs above the main arch. Above the spandrels of the arches, corbelled and semi-circular balconies extend off from the deck to allow the traveler to enjoy the scenery from excellent vantage points.

Bridges around Bubble Pond Area

Bubble Pond Bridge: Completed in 1928, this is an elliptical-arched structure rustic in detail. The 30-foot span is echoed in the railing arch which slopes outward beyond the opening to a more horizontal place. The deck is a full 200 feet in length and flares gently at the end. The stone and mortar substructure are surfaced in rough-dressed random laid rubblestone. The uneven and rough-dressed radiating voussoirs form the graceful arch and the keystone block has been carved with the year “1928.” The rail copings, too, are rough-dressed and jaggedly set, but still provide a strong horizontal element in this bridge’s distinctive profile.

Bridges around Amphitheatre Area

Little Harbor Brook: This small single round arch bridge, built in 1919, crosses over Little Harbor Brook. The bridge is 40 feet long and has a main span twenty feet long and a deck twenty feet wide.

Amphitheatre Bridge: Built in 1928, this bridge is a long, 236 foot structure that traverses the deep Amphitheatre ravine. The deck flares broadly at either end. The 50-foot rounded arch span is constructed of rough-dressed, uneven radiating voussoirs and has a prominent keystone. The surface, in addition to the random-laid ashlar, incorporates large projecting blocks set in several discontinuous vertical rows. The rail copings are of heavy, rectangular blocks of rough-dressed granite with beveled edges and with a gently peaked stone in the center. The rows of ashlar are not completed to their outer edges and this stepped motif, together with the continuous railing coping, creates a series of triangular openings piercing the wall.

Cliffside Bridge: This 232-foot-long structure built in 1932 resembles a medieval battlement curving out over a vast ravine. The 50 foot span segmental arch has a row of slender and tall radiating voussoirs. On either side of the arch are massive bayed abutments, battered at the base, which at the bridge deck become viewer’s platforms. The railing of the bridge is crenulated by the upright placement of massive hand-hewn boulders at regular intervals. The viewers’ platforms have the same ponderous crenellation, as well as finely dressed stone chutes set in the masonry to drain water from the structure.

Area Lighthouses

Of the 65 lighthouses in Maine four are in the immediate Mount Desert Island area.

Egg Rock Lighthouse: Located in the mouth of Frenchman Bay on a thin strip of rock ledge, the 40 foot white tower was built in 1875. Visible from the Park Loop Road, the fog horn from this lighthouse is often heard in Bar Harbor.

Baker Island Lighthouse: On Baker Island, seven miles out to sea, is the oldest light in the area. Built in 1828, its first lighthouse keeper was William Gilley who had settled on Baker Island with his family some 20 years earlier. It is accessible via boat to Baker Island and then a short hike to the island's eastern side where the light is located.

Bear Island Lighthouse: Just outside the mouth of Northeast Harbor, Bear Island Light perches atop this small island's steep southern cliff. It was built in 1839, rebuilt in 1889, and included a fog bell rung during low visibility. Bear Island Light can be viewed on boat cruises from Northeast Harbor.

Bass Harbor Lighthouse: Built in 1858, this lighthouse was a necessity to guide seafarers around the shallow Bass Harbor Bar into the eastern entrance to Bass Harbor. It also marks the entrance into Blue Hill Bay. In 1876 a fog bell and tower were added. It is one of the most scenic and accessible lighthouses in the area. It can be reached off of State Route 102A. The keeper's house currently serves as Coast Guard housing.

Towns of Mount Desert Island

Island's East-Side Towns

Northeast Harbor: This small community is nestled along a narrow harbor dotted with more yachts than fishing boats. Two outstanding public gardens are found in Northeast Harbor. The Azalea Gardens, spectacular in June, are beautiful during any month. Thuya Gardens sits atop a cliff and is accessed either by trail (located across from the Asticou Inn) or by the garden's drive. The Asticou Inn (along with the Claremont Hotel in Southwest Harbor) is an original hotel from the hotel era in the late 1800s. Access to the Cranberry Islands is from the mailboat which operates from Northeast Harbor's marina.

Seal Harbor: A post office, gas station, small store, and a restaurant mark the main street of Seal Harbor. This first glance doesn't convey the fact that Seal Harbor is host to many massive "cottages." Hidden in the coniferous woods along the rocky cliffs of the town are many mansions. Seal Harbor beach is a favorite spot for sunning and swimming in the summer.

Bar Harbor: The largest community on the island, Bar Harbor is filled to the brim with visitors during the summer months. Restaurants, shops, outfitters, hotels, and boat cruises can all be found here. A visit in January provides quite a contrast—boarded up windows, a few cars, and the occasional visitor show Bar Harbor's winter face!

Island's West Side Towns

Somesville: Somesville's character, created by quaint clapboard houses and steepled church, is enhanced by the island's mountains and Somes Sound. Known as "Betwixt the Hills" when it was first settled in 1761, the name Somesville came from its homesteading founder, Abraham Somes. Today visitors may stroll the sidewalks of this village listed on the Register of National Historic Places.

Southwest Harbor: The first people known to have been on Mount Desert Island were, according to recent archaeological excavations, prehistoric native tribes that inhabited Fernald Point on Somes Sound, just to the north of Southwest Harbor, 3,000 years ago. The more recent Wabanaki, the people first encountered by European explorers to this area, also inhabited this site. Surprising to some, it was Southwest Harbor and not Bar Harbor that first hosted visitors. The island's first steamship dock at Clark Point welcomed city-dwelling rusticators ready to experience this mountainous island in the 1840s. Today, Southwest Harbor is home to the United States Coast Guard and numerous boat building industries.

Bass Harbor and Bernard: If one is looking for a classic Maine coast fishing village, Bass Harbor and its sister community, Bernard, across the harbor will satisfy! Lobster boats, lobster traps, and industrious fishermen define these two communities. Ferry service to Swans Island, the second largest island off the Maine coast, leaves from Bass Harbor. The island is perfect for exploring by bicycle.

Museums in the Mount Desert Island Area

George B. Dorr Museum of Natural History

College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor

The museum investigates and interprets the natural history of Maine through a human ecological perspective. Detailed exhibits depict the animal and plant life of Maine. (207) 288-5395/
www.coa.edu/nhm

Abbe Museum

Downtown Bar Harbor

The Museum celebrates Maine's Native American heritage. A permanent exhibition "Wabanaki: People of the Dawn," as well as changing exhibitions and educational programs engage visitors of all ages. (207) 288-3519/www.abbemuseum.org

Bar Harbor Historical Society

Downtown Bar Harbor

The Society holds an outstanding collection extending from Bar Harbor's 1796 incorporation through the Gilded Era to the present. (207) 288-0000 or 288-3807/www.barharborhistorical.org

Sieur de Monts Springs Nature Center

Located in Acadia National Park off State Route 3

Explores the plant and animal life of the park. Discover how its diverse resources are managed by park scientists. (207) 288-3338/www.nps.gov/acad

Abbe Museum at Sieur de Monts Spring

Located in Acadia National Park off State Route 3

A visit to the original Abbe Museum is a step back in time. It features exhibits on the archeology of Maine and the history of the museum. (207) 288-3519/ www.abbemusuem.org

Sound School House Museum

State Route 198

Built in 1892, the MDI Historical Society restored the building in 1999. In the summer, rotating exhibits focus on the cultural history of Mount Desert Island and in the winter the experience of a 19th century school is recreated. The museum also has a research library. (207) 276-9323/www.ellsworthme.org/mdihsociety

The Great Harbor Maritime Museum

Located in the old firehouse, Northeast Harbor

The museum explores and celebrates local maritime history and promotes educational activities on the ocean. (207) 276-5262/ghmm@acadia.net

Islesford Historical Museum*Little Cranberry Island*

The museum exhibits explore life in the Town of Cranberry Isles during the 19th century when schooners were the mode of transportation and oceans were the highways. (207)288-3338/
www.nps.gov/acad

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society*Great Cranberry Island*

Located in the Longfellow Schoolhouse. Exhibits trace life on Great Cranberry Island from its' earliest inhabitants to the present. Children's activities. (207) 244-9055/ www.gcihs.org

Somesville Museum*Somesville, State Route 102*

The original site of the MDI Historical Society, in the heart of the island, overlooks an historic millpond and tranquil Somes Harbor. Exhibits featuring historical topics of MDI communities are installed each summer and include children's activities.

(207) 244-5043/www.ellsworthme.org/mdihsociety

Wendell Gilley Museum*Southwest Harbor*

Discover where art and nature meet in Maine. The Gilley Museum's diverse collection of bird carvings, touring art exhibits, and hands-on programs delight visitors of all ages. (207) 244-7555/
www.acadia.net/gilley

Frenchboro Historical Society*Long Island*

Old tools, furniture, household goods and local memorabilia are on exhibit in the museum. Programs and other special events are offered. Library and craft shop.

(207) 334-2932/www.members.aol.com/frboro

Swans Island Lobster and Marine Museum*Swans Island*

Ship models, photos, equipment, and stories represent two centuries of Maine commercial fishing and the lobster industry. (207) 526-4423

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Historical and scientific resources are available for research by appointment.

William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center

Collections pertaining to the Cranberry Isles and Acadia National Park

(207) 288-5463/john_mcdade@nps.gov

Islesford Historical Society

Dedicated to researching and publishing the history of the Cranberry Isles

(207) 244-7893/<http://cranberryisles.com/little/histsoc.html>

Northeast Harbor Library Archives

The official repository for the records of the Town of Mount Desert

(207) 276-3333

Otter Creek Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Historical information pertaining to Otter Creek

(207) 288-2873

This page intentionally left blank.